

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 01086 281820Z
ACTION HEW-06

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-----010341 076384 /66

R 281725Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1125

UNCLAS RABAT 1086

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DHEW/RSA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY OSCI MO
SUBJECT: STATUS OF PROJECT ON BLINDNESS - 19-P-58229

REF: (A) RABAT 0612, (B) MCCAIVITT-CHERE TELECON 2/8/77

1. OAPAM SECRETARY GENERAL DOUMOU AND MINISTRY OF CULTURE OFFICIAL HIJRI CALLED ON SCIENCE LIAISON OFFICER FEBRUARY 24 TO PRESENT PROPOSED TEXT, IN FRENCH, OF REVISED PROTOCOL OF COOPERATION. NEW MOROCCAN DRAFT PROPOSES SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THRUST OF AGREEMENT AS WELL AS PAYMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE BELIEVE (AND SO INDICATED TO DOUMOU AND HIJRI) WILL NOT FIND READY ACCEPTANCE IN WASHINGTON.

2. MOROCCAN DRAFT CHANGES TITLE OF PROJECT TO QUOTE PREPARATION OF YOUNG BLIND ADULTS FOR THEIR SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REINSERTION INTO ACTIVE LIFE IN MOROCCO UNQUOTE (VICE PREPARATION FOR ENTRY INTO TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND COMPETITIVE PROFESSIONS). TITLE CHANGE PRESAGES SHIFT IN GENERAL TONE OF OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAM OF SERVICES SECTIONS WHICH INTRODUCE SEVERAL QUALIFICATIONS SUCH AS QUOTE ACCORDING TO THE MEANS AVAILABLE TO THE BENEFICIARY UNQUOTE OR QUOTE IF POSSIBLE UNQUOTE AS FAR AS PROMOTING ENTRY INTO TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
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AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENTS ARE CONCERNED. WHILE ELIMINATING MOST OF THE JUSTIFICATION SECTION IN FAVOR OF A SHORTER PREAMBLE TO THE AGREEMENT, MOROCCAN DRAFT RETAINS SUBSTANCE OF US DRAFT WORDING IN SECTIONS ON METHOD, RECRUITMENT, CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION, CONDITIONS OF LIFE, EVALUATION AND RESEARCH, PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DURATION OF PRJECT, AND BUDGET.

3. EQUALLY DISTURBING IN MOROCCAN DRAFT IS PROPOSED REVISION OF PAYMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE STANDARD PART OF ALL RSA AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN BENEFICIARIES. FOR EXAMPLE, OAPAM HAS ELIMINATED STANDARD WORDING ON DISPOSITION OF RESEARCH INFORMATION/ PUBLICATIONS AND US ACCESS TO PROJECT IN FAVOR OF THEIR OWN PREABULAR PHRASEOLOGY GUARANTEEING SUCH FREE ACCESS. MOROCCAN DRAFT ALSO HAS ESCALATOR CLAUSE REQUIRING ADJUSTMENT BY GRANTOR FOR INFLATION IN COSTS OVER BUDGETTED AMOUNTS, CLAUSE MAKING GRANTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR INDEMNIFYING PROJECT EMPLOYERS UPON TERMINATION OF US ASSISTANCE TO PROJECT AND BEFORE THEY OBTAIN OTHER WORK, AND PROVISION FOR OAPAM RETENTION OF UNEXPENDED FUNDS.

4. WHEN SCIENCE LIAISON OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT CERTAIN BASIC ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS IN AGREEMENTS ARE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT BUT REQUIRED BY US LAW, DOUMOU AND HIJRI SAID THAT IN SUCH CASES OAPAM WOULD BE WILLING RECOGNIZE THIS AND RENEGOTIATE. DOUMOU AND HIJRI WERE INFORMED THAT EMBASSY WOULD COMMUNICATE THEIR DRAFT TO DHEW AND INFORM THEM OF COMMENTS RECEIVED.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE WILL POUCH OAPAM FRENCH DRAFT AS SOON AS CORRECTIONS, MADE DURING COURSE OF MOROCCAN PRESENTATION, ARE INSERTED. WHILE DEFERRING TO DHEW JUDGMENT ON MATTER, WE NOW FEEL THAT THERE IS LITTLE USE OF PROCEEDING TO RENEGOTIATION OF PROTOCOL
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ON BASIS OF OAPAM DRAFT WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, DOES CONSIDERABLE VIOLENCE TO CONCEPT THAT PROJECT WILL ULTIMATELY BE SUSTAINED BY MOROCCAN RESOURCES. RECOMMEND THAT RICHTERMAN VISIT BE USED TO TAKE HARD LOOK AT PROJECT TO DETERMINE WHETHER WE CAN OR SHOULD PROCEED GIVEN APPARENTLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN POINT OF VIEW. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTOOD FROM MCCAVITT-CHERE TELECON THAT RICHTERMAN AND COLLEAGUE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR TRIP DURING PERIOD APRIL 3-15, DISCUSSION WITH MOROCCANS INDICATES THAT DOUMOU MAY BE IN FRANCE DURING PART OF THIS PERIOD. PREFERRED TIMING WOULD APPEAR TO BE ANY TIME DURING MONTH OF MAY WHEN PRESENCE OF MOROCCAN PRINCIPALS ASSURED. PLEASE ADVISE. ANDERSON

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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